

In the Detailed Description of the Invention, please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--One preferred embodiment of the invention is a single-stage or multi-stage process in which water is passed across or through a mixture of natural or synthetic lithic materials. The mixture placed in the reactor includes both a neutralizing agent along with at least one precipitating agent that preferentially precipitates metals from the aqueous solution. As mentioned above, the disclosure that the at least one precipitating agent "preferentially precipitates" metals indicates that the precipitating agent(s) serve as a preferred locus of deposition of metals when they precipitate from the aqueous solution during neutralization. This prevents the neutralizing agent from being coated, and allows it to continue its neutralizing function.--

In the Detailed Description of the Invention, please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--In another preferred embodiment the invention is a process for removing metals from water by bringing the water in contact with at least one neutralizing agent, which may be limestone, marble, calcium carbonate, calcite, dolostone, dolomite and/or any other basic material. The water is also brought into contact with at least one precipitating agent, which may be sandstone, quartz, siltstone, quartzarenite, arkose, shale, feldspar, illite, gravel, granite, basalt, conglomerate, schist, slate, gneiss, diorite, gabbro, and rhyolite, or any other material that preferentially precipitates iron, iron oxide, silica, aluminum, aluminum oxide, magnesium, magnesium oxide, copper, copper oxide, chromium, chromium oxide, nickel, nickel oxide, lead, lead oxide, zinc, zinc oxide, cadmium, or any other dissolved or suspended metal during a change in the pH of the water. The water may be from any source which includes, but is not limited to, stream water, river water, ground water, natural and man-made reservoirs, run-off water, process water, waste water, sewage water, storm water, aquifers and lake water.--